

## **Engagement Scholarship Consortium Announces Recipients of Excellence Awards**

For Immediate Release

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**COLUMBUS, OH** – The Engagement Scholarship Consortium (ESC) announces the recipients of its 2023 Excellence Awards Program. The awards program recognizes faculty, staff, students, and higher education institutions and their exemplary contributions to scholarship and the practice of community-engaged scholarship. First conferred in 2018, awards are presented in several categories. Nominations are sought annually from 2- and 4-year public and private higher education institutions and are evaluated by a distinguished panel of scholars.

2023 ESC Excellence Award recipients are:

- **Excellence in Community Partner Engagement Award**  
Margaret Khaita, Mississippi State University  
Higher Education Resource Services-East Africa (HERS-EA)
- **Excellence in Faculty Community Engagement Award**  
Matthew Kelley, University of Washington – Tacoma  
Action Mapping Project (AMP)
- **Excellence in Staff Community Engagement Award**  
Shaunta Stanford, The Ohio State University  
The Ohio State University Community Health Worker Training Program
- **Outstanding Dissertation Award**  
Ashley Hernandez, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill  
Boiling Heights: Diverging Politics and Anti-Gentrification Activism in the Boyle Heights  
Neighborhood of Los Angeles
- **Ryan, Moser, Reilly Award for Excellence in Community Engagement Institutional Leadership**  
Ball State University
- **Hiram E. Fitzgerald Distinguished Engaged Scholar Award**  
John Saltmarsh, University of Massachusetts – Boston

ESC President Laurie A. Van Egeren, assistant provost for university-community partnerships at Michigan State University, underscored the importance of the highly competitive awards programs. “Higher education institutions do an enormous amount of work in collaboration with all sorts of communities, often with little recognition or support,” said Van Egeren. “These projects require a great deal of effort, negotiation, and thought to ensure that they are inclusive, mutually beneficial, and responsive to community needs. Through programs such as the ESC Excellence Awards, we honor the partnerships, knowledge, and impacts that emerge from these extraordinary initiatives committed to making meaningful changes for people and environments. Our awardees show the world the possibilities of exemplary engagement scholarship.”

In 2023, the ESC will hold its Awards and Recognition Ceremony during the ESC Annual Conference (October 4-5, 2023) For more information about the 2023 ESC Conference, including registration, visit the [ESC website](#).

The Engagement Scholarship Consortium is the premier resource for higher education institutions and their faculty, staff, students, and community partners focused on promoting excellence in the scholarship and practice of engaged scholarship locally and globally.

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